

The Library Assistant :

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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

Announcements	49
Editorial :—							
School of Librarianship	50
Women as Librarians	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Publicity	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Reconstruction Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
The Carnegie U.K. Trust	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Notes on Replacements. By Frank T. Bussey	...	...	...	...	...	...	59

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Through the kindness of the President, the **Rev. J. Brett Langstaff, A.B. (Harvard), B.Litt.**, the next meeting of the L.A.A. will take place at "**The David Copperfield Library**," 13, Johnson Street, Euston, N.W.1, on Wednesday, April 26th, at 3.30 p.m., when some of the distinguished literary supporters of the movement will speak. The Chair will be taken by His Worship the Mayor of St. Pancras.

Tea will be provided free of charge, but members will doubtless seize the opportunity to contribute to the funds of the Library. The present aim of the scheme is to equip and endow The David Copperfield Library by raising twenty thousand pounds.

There will be no special meeting of the Junior Section.

After the meeting, it is proposed that a visit be made to a London theatre in the evening. The house suggested is the St. Martin's Theatre, where Galsworthy's "Loyalties" and Barrie's "Shall we Join the Ladies?" are being produced. The lowest sum for which a seat can be booked is 5s. 9d. If those who would like to make up the party will send their names and money to the Honorary Secretary, Public Library, Bankcroft Road, Mile End, E.1, not later than Wednesday, April 12th, an effort will be made to book all the seats in one block.

A visit to the Watford Public Library has been arranged, through the kind offices of the Librarian, Mr. George R. Bolton, for Wednesday, May 24th. Further details will be announced next month.

EDITORIAL.

Important Notice to Members.—The Council begs to draw the attention of members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year to the fact that unless they do so during this month, they will not be able to receive the May issue of the Journal. In view of the approach of the end of our financial year, the Council hopes that every member concerned will assist the Treasurer by forwarding the small sums involved at an early date.

School of Librarianship Entrance Exhibition. — An Entrance Exhibition in the School of Librarianship of the value of £40 a year, and tenable, subject to satisfactory progress, for two years, may be awarded in June, 1922. Candidates must have passed the Matriculation Examination of a University in Great Britain or Ireland. The successful candidate will be required to take a full-time course leading to the Diploma of the School of Librarianship. The Diploma may be taken by a graduate after a one-year's course of study, by an undergraduate after a two-years' course. In selecting the successful candidate, preference will be given, other things being equal, to one who has already had practical experience in an approved library. Candidates must send to the Secretary of the College on or before May 30th, a written application on the form supplied for the purpose, stating their educational qualifications and particulars of their library service. Candidates will be interviewed by representatives of the Committee of the School of Librarianship. They may be submitted to an examination, both oral and written, to test either their general or special knowledge.

We are glad to publish the foregoing announcement, and commend it to any of our readers who may be in a position to avail themselves of the valuable opportunity offered.

Additional Regulations for the Diploma.—The University of London School of Librarianship Diploma in Librarianship shall not be awarded to a full-time student until and unless he has, in addition to attending the courses in the School of Librarianship, and passing the examinations in connection therewith, been employed in full-time paid service in an approved library for a period of not less than twelve months; such service may be discharged either before the student begins his course or after he completes his course in the School of Librarianship.

A part-time student in the School of Librarianship who, while following a part-time course in the School of Librarianship, is at the same time engaged in approved paid library service, will be required to devote to his part-time studies in the

School, and to the approved paid library service a period of not less than four years.

A part-time student in the School of Librarianship who, while following a part-time course in the School, is not at the same time engaged in approved paid library service, will be required, before obtaining his diploma, to produce evidence that he has been employed in full-time service in an approved library for a period of not less than two years.

These Regulations, which come into force in 1923, agree in spirit with the Resolution adopted by the L.A.A. last year, and printed in the April issue of *The Library Assistant*. We are of opinion that the modifications now made in connection with the issue of the Diploma will be for the ultimate good of the School as well as of those who aspire to the Diploma, sweeping away, as it does, the most serious objection that has been urged against the School.

Anglo-American Relations.—We are glad to give prominence on another page to a letter from Mr. W. G. Fry arising out of our note on this matter last month. We do this, not only because we invited expressions of opinion, but more particularly because Mr. Fry is one of the very few British assistants who have had the opportunity of coming into direct contact with the American Library service.

Yeovil.—A public library was opened at Yeovil on 2nd March in the premises formerly occupied by Everybody's Library. The librarian is Mr. Cook.

Libraries and Education.—Lord Shaw of Dunfermline, speaking with regard to economies in education at the reopening of the Great Smith Street Library, said that it was safe to say that libraries were the most economical means of imparting education.

The N.A.L.G.O. Scale.—We learn that the salaries scale referred to in our last issue is still very much in the air, and in view of the conflicting views that exist concerning it we refrain from comment at the moment. The scale, however, is very largely as published in the *Assistant* for January, 1921.

Tunbridge Wells.—We have had letters from several readers drawing attention to the action of the Tunbridge Wells Town Council in deciding to re-issue its advertisement for a librarian at a revised salary of £150 per annum, after the applications for the position at the original salary of £300 had been received. Emphatic protests have been entered by ourselves and by others against the procedure, and we hope that readers and other qualified persons will support us in this matter by refraining from applying for the position if the

advertisement is re-issued. The matter was dealt with in *The Municipal Journal* for 18th March, and we do not propose to pursue the subject further, except to place on record our disgust at the action, which is, we believe, unique in the history of public libraries.

Scraps of Paper.—We notice that His Majesty's Stationery Office is prepared to receive offers for copies of some of the famous recruiting and other posters issued during the War. The first poster illustrated in the catalogue is that well-known one, "The Scrap of Paper," which is rightly described as being "a poster of historic value"; accordingly, we suggest that some local bodies might procure copies of it and hang them suitably in their committee rooms as a silent reminder of the sacredness of treaties entered into with others. We throw out the suggestion because we have heard of authorities who, despite agreements entered into quite recently with their employees, have now departed from them.

Assisting Readers.—We are glad to see that our junior colleagues have devoted one of their meetings to a discussion on "assisting the readers." This is without doubt the most important work that a library can undertake, and those who are permitted to take part in it should realise their privilege—and responsibility. Public opinion of the value of libraries is very largely moulded by the attention they receive at our shelves, and it is imperative therefore that only the best of our assistants should be permitted to take a hand in this work. As one of the speakers remarked, "the assistant must be polite and obliging, resourceful and sympathetic, and blessed with a good measure of commonsense."

As It Is in England.—It is interesting to see that our American contemporary, *Public Libraries*, quotes the remarks made in our October issue on the salaries question and on the appeal of the library service to women rather than "to men of the more able sort." We should have liked to have had our American friends' views of the alleged position. Perhaps they will oblige us in a future issue.

Women as Librarians and Library Assistants.—An interesting address was given on Wednesday, March 15th, at University College, by Miss Frost, F.L.A., Librarian of Worthing.

Having made a few remarks on the intentional or unintentional practice of both the L.A. and the L.A.A. of not reporting women librarians or assistants, Miss Frost said she had not come there with the purpose of discussing the question of sex equalities. The only question to which she wished to draw attention was the one of equal remuneration for equal qualifications.

Some interesting extracts were read from letters received from Canadian and American librarians. These contained a formidable array of statistics showing the predominance of women over men as chief librarians and assistants. The number of women chief librarians in England was, so far as she could ascertain, sixteen.

Continuing, Miss Frost urged upon all women librarians and embryo librarians the necessity for thorough business ability in addition to scholastic ability. General knowledge, a good knowledge of at least one foreign language, initiative, tact, courtesy, cheerfulness, an interest in one's duties, were the essentials of a good assistant. In addition, a smart, but suitable personal appearance was most important. Here Miss Frost drew an amusing comparison between girls bedecked in styles of all shades and shapes and one neatly but attractively arrayed in overalls. Let the choice of overalls be settled by a woman member of the staff rather than the Chief Librarian—if a male! We agree. Some overalls we have seen—whether chosen by men or women we do not know—resemble the garb of a mid-Victorian orphanage more than anything else.

Dr. Baker, Director of the School of Librarianship, in moving a vote of thanks, remarked that much as he was in sympathy with some of the remarks of Miss Frost, he did not consider the present time and conditions opportune for a crusade on behalf of women as librarians.

There seems to be an impression abroad that men are averse to the advent of women into libraries. For our own part we are convinced that librarianship is a perfectly congenial and in every way desirable occupation for women, *but*, as Miss Frost was careful to point out, there must be equal remuneration—or something approaching it—for equal qualifications.

Where men are averse to the advent of women, it will be generally found that they have had experience in libraries which have introduced women for the sole reason that they are cheaper than men. Of course that is not the reason advanced, but at bottom it *is* so. We have seen many salaries scales in which two distinct gradings exist, the women often maximising at half, or even less, than the men. It has been always recognised—rightly or wrongly—that a woman should be paid less than a man, but the teachers have reduced the anomalies that have existed for years, to a very considerable extent, and we hope that similar adjustments may be made with regard to women library assistants. Practically half the membership of the L.A.A. comprises women, and we can assure them that

their interests in these matters are watched over by Miss G. Rees, who represents the L.A.A. on the London Council of Women's Service.

Publicity.—In the editorial column of the last issue of a well-known and widely-read contemporary, a suggestion is put forward that a feeling exists in the minds of many members of the Library Association that that Association is not justifying its existence. Apart from its Educational and Examination work, which shines as one bright jewel in an otherwise rather pasteboard crown, little else can be added to the lustre of the Association. Perhaps this is too severe a stricture. However, thanks to the energy, determination, enthusiasm and resourcefulness of Mr. Walter A. Briscoe, another bit of shine is likely to be added to the credit of the L.A. The Council has set up a small Publicity Committee, representative of the best of the youth, vigour, ideas, and enthusiasm of that body. The Chairman of this Committee is Mr. L. Stanley Jast and the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Briscoe himself. Two meetings have already been held and a line of policy based on sound principles tentatively suggested. We understand that preparations are being made to organise a complete system of publicity work throughout the country with the underlying idea of educating public opinion as to the true function of its public library—what it stands for and what it is; and its right place in the educational economy of the land. All librarians will at least agree that this is necessary and useful work, although many will perhaps disagree as to the methods best suited for the achievement of the task the Committee has undertaken. However, the idea is one which commends itself strongly to us, and we shall be only too pleased to add our small quota to the laudable effort to place the public library service on its right pedestal in the minds of the public. Were the public properly informed the humiliation and tragedy of Tunbridge Wells (referred to on another page) could never happen. The Publicity Committee deserves—more, demands—the hearty and unselfish co-operation of every librarian and assistant throughout the country. The work is of national importance and we wish it every success.

Summer Schools.—With this issue we circulate particulars of the Summer School which it is proposed to hold in London from 17th to 29th July under the auspices of the School of Librarianship. The programme is an interesting one and the fees are as reasonable as can be expected. It is hoped that the School will be well-supported, especially by our provincial colleagues, to whom is offered all the advantages of a holiday in London combined with a course of useful study. As we

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, JUNE, 1921, TO FEBRUARY, 1922
(7 MONTHS).

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Members' Subscriptions ...	68	0 6	Printing ...	122	1 6
*Branch Subscriptions ...	44	11 4½	Postages ...	31	3 2½
"Library Assistant" ...	41	13 4	Stationery ...	6	11 8
Advertisements ...	20	11 6	Subscriptions ...	3	6 0
L.A.A. Series ...	0	19 3	Delegates' Expenses ...	0	15 0
			Hire of Room ...	0	15 0
			Refund ...	0	7 0
	£175	15 11½		£164	19 4½
* Branch Payments.					
			1920—21.	1921—22.	
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Midland ...	4	12 6			
North East ...	5	12 6	2	5 6	
North West ...	6	3 6			
South Coast ...	1	18 6	4	1 0	
Yorkshire ...	11	6 10½	8	11 0	
	£29	13 10½	£14	17 6	

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

(Under the New Scheme).

	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Advertisements ...	26	0 0	Printing "Library Assistant," 900 copies	20	
Subscriptions to "Library Assistant" (107 at 8s.)	42	16 0	pages ...	192	0 0
554 Members at 6s.	166	4 0	Postages for "Library Assistant" ...	30	0 0
Sundry Sales—"Library Assistant" and L.A.A. Series ...	5	0 0	Envelopes ...	10	0 0
			General Postages, Subscriptions, etc. ...	20	0 0
			General Printing ...	5	0 0
			Delegates' Expenses ...	30	0 0
	£240	0 0		£287	0 0

J. FREDERICK HOGG,
Hon. Treasurer.

The Carnegie U.K. Trust.—We suppose it is quite safe to say that there is no annual report to which librarians look forward so eagerly as that of the Trustees of the Carnegie U.K. Trust, of which we have just received a copy covering 1921. It affords indirectly an excellent review of the position of libraries in this country, and enables us to view our advance—or otherwise—from year to year. In the report before us there is much fruit for thought and discussion, and while we recognise the invaluable service that the Trust has rendered to the library service in the past, there is much in the report with

which we, looking at it from the professional standpoint, must disagree.

In the first place, we think the Trust would be doing much more useful work by restricting itself to the few things in which its founder was *most* interested, rather than in launching out in new fields, which we gather is what is now favoured when the trustees point out that "New projects of a pioneer order take precedence of old-established schemes, the value of which is generally recognised, and which, therefore, can legitimately look for support from the general public or are the objects of statutory provision."

For instance, it is recorded that of all the lines of policy which are handicapped by certain difficulties, "the Borough Library Policy is the chief sufferer." At the present time the Trust has on hand 28 outstanding promises, involving a sum of nearly £224,000. In view of the present urgent need for finding employment, several authorities have signified their desire to proceed with their schemes. "Unfortunately, however, the Trustees cannot, in view of their other commitments, increase the amount of their promises to meet the present cost of building." With all due respect, we suggest that it would be far better to assist some of these 28 outstanding promises rather than to embark on "new projects."

Apparently, when these outstanding promises *have* been fulfilled, no more grants will be forthcoming towards the provision of borough libraries in view of the removal of the rate limitation. The report at any rate goes so far as to say that it is "very doubtful whether the Borough Library Policy will ever be resumed, at all events in its old form." We regret that this should be the view held, as we still regard this work to have been amongst the most valuable ever undertaken by the late Andrew Carnegie or by the Trust, which we presume exists primarily to carry on the work that he had so closely at heart.

The report deals at very great length with the Rural Library schemes; the Appendix setting out the present position is most interesting, and the compilers are to be congratulated on the excellent manner in which it has been prepared. To date, 39 rural library grants have been made in England and Scotland, and it is noteworthy that in several cases the period (five years) for which a grant was made is now coming to an end, at a most unfortunate time as the report rightly observes. Either the county authorities must now adopt the Libraries Act, the present schemes must fizzle out, or the Trustees must come forward with some assistance. We are glad to see that Staffordshire, the first county to be confronted with the

dilemma, has done the right thing, and adopted the Act. We hope that this precedent will be followed by the other authorities when the time approaches.

The Central Library for Students still has a very warm place in the hearts of the Trustees—if such bodies have hearts—and expresses its appreciation of the work that has been accomplished. As we noted last month the Library has now removed to new premises which have been acquired on a 21 years' lease by the generosity of the Trust. In addition, £3,500 have been provided for the adaptation and equipment of the building. Until 1926 the Trust will continue to make a grant of £1,000 for new books, which together with two grants received from other sources gives the library an annual income of £2,500. Of course, it sounds huge, and the Report says that it "should ensure that the fullest use will be made of the new accommodation." But when we remember that the Central Library is supposed to act as a feeder to all the rural libraries, to many municipal libraries, and to large numbers of individual students, it cannot be said that the sum is by any means adequate.

The everlasting salaries question is not without notice. "With the removal of the rate limitation, municipal authorities will be able gradually to offer better salaries, and there is reason to hope there will be an increased number of posts which will attract librarians who, in addition to possessing good technical qualifications, have also attained to a high standard of general culture." We still "hope on," and it rather looks as though we may "hope ever," when Tunbridge Wells estimates the librarian's worth at £150 per annum, when the London School of Economics asks first for a man to take charge of a statistical library, with a knowledge of three languages, and some acquaintance with statistics, for £250 a year, and then for a diplomated woman, junior it is true (whatever that elastic term may signify) for £110, and Portsmouth for a trained man capable of supervising the branches and carrying out other very responsible duties for £175.

As we have already remarked, the "Memorandum" on Rural Library Policy is interesting, although here again we cannot agree with all that is said. We are glad to see that stress is laid upon the importance of the county librarian, and upon the fact that the minimum salary of £300 a year "is manifestly small." Three authorities have already seen the wisdom of offering more, and we hope that the remainder may soon have their eyes opened. It is sheer nonsense to talk about the desirability of University training, the development of the county librarian into "a kind of adult Education Officer with

wide responsibilities," and all the rest of it, unless the authorities concerned are prepared to pay for it.

We could write much more about this interesting document, but space forbids. We only express the hope that in its search for new fields the Trustees will not completely forsake the earlier ones, the ones indeed that in these critical days still require a certain measure of assistance. We should also like to see grants made to authorities conditional upon their appointing a trained librarian at the very outset of the scheme instead of at a later period.

The Film: An Open Competition.—We have been asked to announce that in order to stimulate an interest in the above subject, a prize of Five Guineas will be awarded to the best essay, on the subject, entitled "The Film: Its Possibilities as an Educative, Advertising, and Publicity Medium." The conditions of the competition are as follows:—

1. The essay must be the Competitor's own unaided effort.
2. The length of the essay is optional.
3. The essay must be typed, on quarto paper.
4. Originality of treatment of the subject will be closely considered.
5. The essays submitted will not be returned.
6. All essays must be sent in under an assumed name, the real name being written on a separate slip of paper.
7. The last date of entry to be Friday, June 30th, 1922.
8. All essays submitted must be addressed, "The Chief Librarian (Mr. M. Jackson Wrigley, author of "The Film: Its Use in Popular Education," Grafton, 6s. net), The Liverpool Library, Lyceum, Bold Street, Liverpool, endorsed in the top left hand corner "Kinema."

SOME NOTES ON REPLACEMENTS.

By FRANK T. BUSSEY, Hackney Public Libraries.

"Of the making of many books there is no end" is as true to-day as when it was first uttered, but the complaint of librarians is that they are not the right kind of books, and there can be few, if any, routine tasks of the public librarian of to-day that have increased in difficulty to such an extent as that of replacing worn-out and lost books. The difficulty is noticeable in the case of numerous standard works, non-fiction as well as fiction, and even pre-war novels of lighter types, especially those by well-known writers, are fast becoming scarce. Amongst reasons which could be put forward, these probably contribute largely to the existing state of affairs: (a) the publication of so few reprints of standard and popular works; (b) the needs of Rural Library schemes; (c) the attempt of so many librarians during the past year or two to put their houses in order after the

lean years of the War; and (d) the large number of books sent to the various Expeditionary Forces during the War.

Some libraries will doubtless replace many of their books that are not O.P. by new copies; this number will account for quite a good percentage of the books required if the financial state of the library is in a position to permit the purchase of new copies. Amongst stocks of remainders there is usually but a very small proportion of those books which are ordinarily found on replacement lists, and as a source of obtaining replacements, remainders need hardly be considered, so that we propose to confine ourselves with replacing by means of second-hand copies.

The library with a card or sheaf catalogue seems to possess a considerable advantage over one having a printed catalogue so far as the replacing of stock is concerned, as it is impossible to procure many books that are on wants lists. Whereas these unobtainable books must remain entered in the printed catalogue, their entries can be withdrawn from a card or a sheaf catalogue. It almost seems that it is the duty of libraries possessing printed catalogues to use every endeavour to replace books which appear therein, if only for the satisfaction of those borrowers who purchase copies.

The compilation of the list of wants varies slightly according to the library. In an "indicator" library the list can be compiled from the indicator books, or from the replacement book, whereas in the open-access library the book-cards will probably be used, in either case a fairly straightforward task. In the case of a library system centrally administered, however, the task is slightly more complicated, as before a list of wants can be prepared, a master list containing the books needed by the Central and its branches must be made. This can be done by each of the branches sending its book-cards to the Central, or each branch can prepare its own list and send it to the Central. Such a master list must show the number of copies of each book required, the disposition of the various copies, and the accession number of each copy, in order that the books can be dealt with when they arrive. An imaginary entry will perhaps show this clearly:—

CAINE, Hall. The Christian.

Central	3	(8171, 5869, 3647).
North	1	(22570).
South	1	(5743).
East	1	(3997).
West	2	(6379, 3328).

From this list must be made the lists to be sent to the booksellers, on which the above entry will be shorn of all details and appear as :—

CAINE. *Christian.

the asterisk, or whatever mark may be chosen, denoting that more than one copy is required. Especially with large lists it is perhaps advisable not to state exactly how many copies of any special work are needed, as the price of that particular work might thereby be enhanced!

The usual list of wants contains some preliminary instructions to the booksellers, usually something after this fashion :—

Central Public Library,
Bullton.

28-2-1922.

Dear Sir,

Please report on the accompanying list any books you are able to supply. An asterisk denotes more than one copy required. All books reported must be clean, perfect, and secure in their covers. No cheap, pocket, Tauchnitz, or colonial editions required. Orders of £2 and over to be sent carriage paid.

Yours faithfully,

W. SMITH,

Chief Librarian.

The above particulars are sufficient for a list of wants composed of fiction, but for non-fiction it is necessary (especially for technical and text-books) to instruct the bookseller to report edition and date of each work. It may also be an additional safeguard to state in the remarks that any books which do not comply with the conditions will be returned at the expense of the bookseller.

With regard to the placing of the order, whenever it is possible to trade locally, at fair prices, it should be done, as in this way the trade of the place which provides the finance for the library is being assisted.

In dealing with booksellers' reports, not only must great care be exercised, but personal knowledge of the bookseller in question must enter largely into the question. Different booksellers have varying standards, and the high standard set by one firm makes others appear very much out of it. Even when making reports on fiction, they give, in addition to author and title, binding (that is, whenever a book is not bound in the ordinary publisher's cloth) date, publisher, price of publication, condition, and price at which they offer the books. When they report a work that is O.P., that fact is also noted, and when we say that their statements can be relied on, especially as to the condition of the books, it is easily seen that in the event of one of their reports being the same price as another bookseller's, they are almost certain to get the order, because we know that we can rely on their goods.

Another small point with regard to booksellers. Many of them keep their fiction stock in alphabetical order according to titles. This must entail extra labour in making reports for public libraries, because these are invariably arranged according to authors.

As each report comes in the items which are reported thereon should be entered on a flanked copy of the stencil which has been kept for making the summary, and which should look something like this:—

BRADDON.	Cloven Foot.	Brown 2s., Jones 1s. 9d., Smith 2s. 3d., Hall 2s.
	Lady's Mile.	Jones (ppr.) 9d., Smith (bds.) 1s. 3d.
	Thou Art the Man.	Jones 2s., Smith 2s., Hall 2s. 3d.

This shows at a glance all the reports on each book. Initials may be used for the booksellers' names, if desired, in which case a key to the initials must be kept. The selection for the orders can be done by ticking in a distinctive colour against the report those that have been accepted, and the orders are perhaps best made up by going right through the list in making out each separate order. Careful checking is necessary, especially in a lengthy list, otherwise books will undoubtedly be missed. After the checking has been done, the orders should be immediately despatched, because the sooner they are away, the fewer will be the number of books sold in the meantime. If the length of the list warrants, it might be as well to cross-tick the ordered items on the summary as they arrive. Then, any reported item with a single tick will signify, ordered but not sent by bookseller, and a glance would tell if any other bookseller had reported that particular item. Thus ordered, and received.

For a system of libraries, the majority of parcels will be on the large size. Even when this is not so, it is safer to deal with one parcel at a time than to have several open, and their contents in various stages of preparation. The contents should be checked with the invoice, and the invoice with the order: the books arranged alphabetically according to author, and allocated to the various libraries, at the same time, of course, being crossed off the master list. Book-cards should be inserted in title-pages and the requisite entries made in the replacement (or accession) book. By dealing with one parcel at a time, the risk of misplacing volumes, or of crossing over books from various booksellers, is greatly reduced.

BOOKS FOR THE BLIND.

The March General Meeting of the L.A.A. was held at the National Library for the Blind on Wednesday, 8th March. The chair was occupied by Miss Olive Prince, the Secretary and Librarian of that well-organized and valuable institution. In a few brief remarks she welcomed the Association to the National Library, incidentally remarking that, large as the present building appeared to be, it had already become too small for the present needs, with the result that adjoining property had been acquired to permit of extension when the opportunity offered.

Mr. J. Bulman-Smith, M.A., then addressed the meeting on "Books for the Blind: their production and circulation." In the course of his remarks, the speaker conveyed to the meeting much information concerning the progress that had been made during recent years in connection with the provision of books for blind readers. He went to considerable pains to explain the various types of books in use and the methods by which they were prepared for use, largely with the assistance of some hundreds of voluntary workers.

Mr. Bulman-Smith emphasized the fact that the National Library had grown to such proportions that it was now free to all blind readers who cared to avail themselves of its resources. That the blind had so availed themselves was obvious from the growth of its issues, which had been known to exceed 700 in a single day.

As was pointed out again and again in the course of the evening, the Public Libraries can and are doing a good deal of work for and with the National Library by contributing to its funds and by becoming distributing agents to those who preferred to borrow through the local library rather than direct from headquarters.

At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Bulman-Smith invited questions, many of which were put, and carefully answered either by himself or by Miss Prince.

After votes of thanks had been passed to both speaker and chairman, Miss Prince very kindly offered to explain the charging system and other mechanical features of the library to those present, all of which details were distinctly interesting and served to demonstrate the immense amount of work that the Library is accomplishing, largely through the medium of the post.

We should like to take this opportunity of recording our thanks to those in authority at the National Library, not only for their hospitality on this occasion, but for the facilities that are fully placed at our disposal in connection with the monthly Council meetings. We hope that assistants will recognize our debt in this respect, and do all that may lie within their power to help the work of the Library.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Public Library,
Chorlton-cum-Hardy,
Manchester.

10th March, 1922.

To the Editor of "The Library Assistant."

DEAR SIR,

It was with great pleasure that I read your note on "Anglo-American Relations." Nothing would be better, both from the purely administrative standpoint and from that of the educational effect on library workers, than some form of interchange. I advocated this in the *Library World*, May, 1913, although I did not then include American libraries. The only thing now, as then, which seems to make the idea impracticable is the prohibitive

cost of passages. While American library authorities *might* see some of the advantages of such interchanges, English library authorities would merely dismiss the suggestion as a "joy ride for library assistants."

Yet English libraries would benefit from an influx of American ideas and English librarians in America would profit by experience in better-equipped libraries, and, of course, if the University School diplomates could get their experience in American libraries, the advantages to them and to the English libraries, in which they might be employed later, would be very great.

But I gather that the interchange you have in mind would be permanent, not temporary. Even then it would help towards a better sense of proportion in the history and literature of the two countries. History, for the average American, dates from 1776, and he cannot understand the British attitude towards the War of Independence. He fails to realise that that particular event, which is all-important in a history of a couple of hundred years, is only an episode in our 2,000 years. Moreover, the average American would be offended if asked by a fairly intelligent person, "Who was 'Stonewall' Jackson?" Yet I was asked by an intelligent lady in New York, "Who was Nelson?"

A similar adjustment would have to take place between English and American literatures. Naturally, the American's knowledge of his country's literature is more detailed than that of the Britisher, and the latter would probably find that some comparatively popular authors were unknown to him.

As to good fellowship between the library services of the two countries, I can personally testify to that. In several American libraries which I visited, I was made very welcome—some libraries, such as Brooklyn, were more cordial than others; and I have impressions of some wonderful libraries, amongst others the Central Library of New York, and the representative town libraries of Norfolk (Va.) and Portland (Me.). One cannot fail to be impressed by the part played by the public library in America. I think it is Stephen Graham who says that when showing a visitor round the city the American almost invariably begins with the library.

I hope your note will help to stimulate good fellowship between the two library services, and assist the idea of interchanges.

Yours faithfully,

W. G. FRY.

APPOINTMENTS.

C. T. CLAY, sub-librarian, House of Lords, to be librarian. Salary £1,000.

*HARRY ELLIOTT, senior assistant, Chelsea, to be sub-librarian, Warrington. Salary £150 plus bonus.

— HAMILTON, Edinburgh, to be county librarian, Wilts. Salary (inclusive) £250.

*J. G. O'LEARY, Fulham, to be a junior assistant, St. Pancras. Salary £70 plus bonus.

D. G. JONES, Birmingham Reference Library, to be County Librarian, Bucks. Salary (inclusive) £300.

JOHN SMITH, Assistant-in-Charge, Great Lever Branch Library, Bolton, to be Deputy Librarian, Norwich. Salary and bonus £259 8s. 9d.

Also selected: *George Hayward (Portsmouth), M. L. Hodges (Hammer-smith).

* Member, L.A.A.

NEW MEMBERS.

Members: CHARLES KEYTE and MARGARET COHEN (West Ham); WILLIAM HOWELL (Poplar).